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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,228	07/15/2003	Mark M. Data	A3-143 US	8510

23683 7590 03/19/2004

MOLEX INCORPORATED  
2222 WELLINGTON COURT  
LISLE, IL 60532

EXAMINER

FIGUEROA, FELIX O

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/620,228	Applicant(s) DATA ET AL.	
	Examiner Felix O. Figueroa	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-12, 14-16, 19-26 and 28-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 4, 5, 13, 18 and 27, 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

The amendment to the claims filed on January 12, 2004 does not comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121(a)&(c) because they do not commence in a separate sheet. In response to this Office action, Applicant is required to submit a current version of the claims and the abstract commencing in separate sheets.

### ***Drawings***

The Corrected / Replacement drawing(s) received on January 12, 2004 are disapproved. Amendment / correction to Figure 1 will be approved if submitted separately. While applicant intends to use the same sectional line in Figure 2 to address Figures 3 and 6, it is noted that the sectional views shown in Figures 3 and 6 are not taken along the same direction. The use of two independent sectional lines is suggested.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 7 and 20 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 7 and 20 recite that "the arc discharge contact is spherically shaped". However, the arc discharge contacts appear to be semi-circular, rather than spherically shaped.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20 and 24 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ketelsleger (US 2001/0034167).

Ketelsleger discloses a female comprising: a terminal body (2) with a mating end (10) and a circuit connecting end (12,14); a terminal receiving passageway defined in the mating end including two spaced apart sidewalls (22) extending lengthwise along the passageway, the sidewalls arranged to resiliently flex away from each other as the male terminal is inserted into the male terminal; at least one inwardly projecting primary contact (36) stamped from one of the sidewalls and held to the one sidewall by at least two opposite ends of the primary contact; and at least one inwardly projecting arc discharging contact (not labeled, below 36 in Fig.4) stamped from the one of the sidewalls and held to the one sidewall by at least two opposite ends of the arc discharging contact, forwardly of the primary contact in the terminal receiving passageway.

Regarding claim 14, Ketelsleger discloses a notch (24) made partially into at least one of the sidewalls of the female terminal.

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 15, 19-25 and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stanevich (US 5,135,417).

Stanevich discloses a female comprising: a terminal body (Fig.8) with a mating end (20) and a circuit connecting end (30-33); a terminal receiving passageway defined in the mating end including two spaced apart sidewalls (17,18) extending lengthwise

along the passageway, the sidewalls arranged to resiliently flex away from each other as the male terminal is inserted into the male terminal; at least one inwardly projecting primary contact (24) stamped from one of the sidewalls and held to the one sidewall by at least two opposite ends of the primary contact; and at least one inwardly projecting arc discharging contact (22,26) stamped from the one of the sidewalls and held to the one sidewall by at least two opposite ends of the arc discharging contact, forwardly of the primary contact in the terminal receiving passageway.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 12, 16 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ketelsleger in view of Ito et al. (US 5,630,738).

Ketelsleger discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the flat / elongated surface on the primary contact. Ito teaches a primary contact (21) with a flat, elongated contacting surface (20) to provide a larger are of contact and thus a stable / more reliable contact with the mating terminal. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the primary contact of Ketelsleger with a flat, elongated contacting surface, as taught by Ito, to provide a larger are of contact and thus a stable / more reliable contact with the mating terminal.

Claims 3, 12, 16 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stanevich in view of Ito et al.

Stanevich discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the flat / elongated surface on the primary contact. Ito teaches a primary contact (21) with a flat, elongated contacting surface (20) to provide a larger are of contact and thus a stable / more reliable contact with the mating terminal. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the primary contact of Stanevich with a flat, elongated contacting surface, as taught by Ito, to provide a larger are of contact and thus a stable / more reliable contact with the mating terminal.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 4, 5, 13, 17, 18 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not


mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 10:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR: Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ffr



RENEE LUEBKE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER